

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 04046 091552Z
ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS PARIS 04046

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, BTRA, EGEN, FR
SUBJECT: VISIT TO US OF PRESIDENT OF FRENCH EMPLOYERS
FEDERATION

1. FRANCOIS CEYRAC, PRESIDENT OF THE CONSEIL NATIONAL DU PATRONAT FRANCAIS (CNPF), PLANS A VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK MARCH 22-25. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ADVISOR ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CLAUDE EVAIN. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO GET A FEEL FOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TRENDS IN US AND FOR THE EVOLVING POLICIES OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AS THEY AFFECT INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS. DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING WORKED OUT BY JEAN BOSSON, COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

2. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE PROBABLY AWARE THE CNPF IS ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO THE NAM BUT HAS A SOMEWHAT MORE PRESTIGIOUS AND INFLUENTIAL STANDING IN THE FRENCH CONTEXT. CEYRAC IS THE ACCEPTED SPOKESMAN FOR FRENCH INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN THE GOF POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS, AND THE CNPF REPRESENTS THE EMPLOYERS IN ALL COLLECTIVE WAGE NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS THE CNPF WHICH, AT THE BEHEST OF THE GOF, IS TAKING THE LEAD IN THE CURRENT NATIONWIDE "BUY FRENCH" CAMPAIGN (SEE PARIS 3874). THE CNPF ALSO REPRESENTS FRENCH BUSINESS ON MTN MATTERS.
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3. CEYRAC AND EVAIN HAVE BOTH BEEN ACTIVE IN PROMOTING FRANCO-AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING AT THE BIG BUSINESS LEVEL. IT WAS THE CNPF'S FRANC DOLLAR COMMITTEE, SPARKED LARGELY BY EVAIN, WHICH ORGANIZED AND FINANCED THE BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM OF BUSINESS VISITOR EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES LAST FALL. THE CNPF IS CONSISTENTLY HELPFUL IN GREETING AND BRIEFING US AND STATE BUSINESS

MISSIONS AND IN SUPPORTING THE INVEST USA PROGRAM.
EVAIN SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH BUT CEYRAC NONE.

4. WE RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES APPROACHED BY
BOSSON FOR APPOINTMENTS BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE
AND FACILITATE MEETINGS AT TOP POLICY LEVELS. WE BE-
LIEVE THAT MEETINGS WITH TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL,
COMMERCE SECRETARY KREBS, AND SECRETARY VANCE AND/OR
UNDER SECRETARY COOPER WOULD BE PARTICULARLY APPROPRI-
ATE AND DESIRABLE.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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